



THE EVANGELISM MODEL

TEACHING NOTES

Evangelism

A Biblical Framework Discussion Guide

The Big Picture

Sharing

Write 5-10 facts or observations about evangelism in your ministry context. Use simple statements (not long explanations).

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Discussion

What were the most common observations shared about evangelism?

What do you learn about evangelism in your ministry context from the observations that were shared?

An Overview of the Issues

On one level, evangelism is as simple as one person telling another how they can experience the forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ. But, if we step back and look at the big picture, the ministry of evangelism can be as multi-faceted and complex as the societies in which we live and the people to whom minister.

Using the Bible as our guide, we will explore the issues we face in evangelism through the lens of seven different components.

God: The Master

We must talk about God's work in evangelism.

Evangelism is always first and foremost a work of God. God is the hub, around which all evangelism revolves and from which all evangelism draws its power.

- How do we infuse our lives and ministries with God's power and passion for evangelism?
- How do we ensure that our evangelism truly accomplishes God's purposes and not simply our own?

The World: The Masses

We must talk about the lost and the social, cultural and spiritual world in which they live.

Evangelism is always done in context and is influenced by its context. Each context is unique and influences both the message that is shared and the methods that are used.

- How does the social and cultural fabric of a society influence the gospel?
- How do we understand and assist the spiritual process by which an unbeliever comes to faith?

Believers: The Messengers

We must talk about role of believers in witness.

God desires to use all believers as his messengers in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the unbelieving world, but in different ways. God will use any and all, despite their maturity or training, if they are available and in contact with unbelievers.

- How do we appropriately involve all believers in effective witness, including new believers?
- How do we train and mobilize increasing numbers in strategic evangelism?

The Gospel Message

We must talk about the Gospel message itself.

The life-changing message of Jesus never changes. In one sense, the gospel can be reduced to its essential message, a clear and simple statement about Jesus Christ and his work for the salvation of our sins. Yet as the gospel is explored, its depths unfold riches speaking clearly to the whole of the human dilemma.

- How do we protect the theological integrity of the gospel, yet make our message relevant to our audience?

The Means of Communication

We must talk about our presentations of the gospel, including the tools and resources we use to communicate it.

We have numerous means available to communicate the unchanging gospel message. Some means are personal and spontaneous. Others are reproduced and transferable.

- How do we skillfully use the tools that are available to us?
- How do we develop new tools and resources that will be effective for communicating the gospel in our present or in new contexts?

The Relational Modes

We must discuss the different types of relationships between believers and unbelievers and their impact on evangelism.

There are essentially three different types of relationships between believers and unbelievers through which God works as he seeks to save the lost. These relationships are true at any time and in any culture.

- How do we align our strategies with God's work through relationships?
- How do we make the most of the opportunities these relationships provide us?

The Effective Methods

We must discuss our methods and their effectiveness.

There are many different approaches to doing the work of evangelism. Different methods accomplish different things. But not all methods are equally effective in each context.

- How do we measure of effectiveness?
- How do you adapt our methods to fit our context of ministry?

- How do we develop new methods that are more effective in our contexts of ministry?

Discussion

What are the major challenges or obstacles in evangelism today?

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If you could overcome one of these challenges, which one would make the greatest difference for your ministry of evangelism?

Prayer

Pray that God would impart insight and wisdom as we grapple with the challenges we face in evangelism and as we search for breakthrough solutions.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
(Ephesians 3:20, 21)

Evangelism: a Biblical Framework

Keith Davy

The Methods Component

Personal Reflection

What are your three most effective evangelistic methods or strategies?

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Why did you choose these three methods or strategies?

Discussion

Share an example from your effective methods above.

What lessons do you learn about effective evangelistic methods from what was shared?

Biblical Principles

Consider the use of the agricultural cycle as a witnessing analogy.

John 4:34-38

Matthew 9:37, 38

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

There are two elements that are essential to fruitfulness in agriculture and evangelism.

Planting ... Proclamation

Reaping ... Persuasion

There are two elements that are helpful to increase fruitfulness in agriculture and evangelism.

Cultivating ... Preparation

Feeding during growth ... Processing time

Farmers only cultivate and feed as much as is needed. It is too costly to waste time and resources.

Effectiveness in each stage is measured by:

The Preparation Stage

Are they open to “hear” the gospel?

The Proclamation Stage

Do they understand the gospel and its implications?

The Processing Stage

Are the barriers to belief being removed as their understanding is growing?

The Persuasion Stage

Are they making an informed response to the gospel?

Identify and Evaluate

Identify different evangelistic methods. With which audiences are they effective on the spiritual spectrum? You can identify their range of effectiveness with a dotted line, under which you can label what it is generally effective at accomplishing (cultivation, planting, feeding growth, reaping. See the example.)

Hostile	Resistant	Indifferent	Open	Seeking
			<i>Spiritual Interest</i> <i>Planting</i>	<i>Questionnaires</i> <i>Reaping</i>

What do you observe about your range of methods? What are the strengths? Where are the gaps?

Evangelism Model -- Modes Component

Keith Davy

The Relationships of Evangelism

Personal Reflection

In which context did you come to Christ?

- Through the influence of a body of believers (at a local church, CCC meeting, Bible study, a Christian conference, etc.)?
- Through the influence of a believer with whom you had a natural relationship (such as, a family member, friend, or acquaintance)?
- Through the influence of an individual who had contact with you because they were involved in an outreach ministry activity?

Discussion

Which of the above three evangelism contexts does your ministry emphasize? Place them in order of emphasis?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Which of the three evangelism contexts appears to be the most effective? Why?

Biblical Principles

The Relational Modes of Evangelism

Mode: 1. A customary, preferred way of doing something; *a mode of operation*. (What is God's customary or preferred way of reaching people for Christ?) 2. The way things are or exist; *a mode of existence, such as a solid or liquid*. (What is always true in God's work in evangelism?)

God always works through three primary relational modes in evangelism:

Witness Through Body Relationships

It is biblically important.

- Acts 2:42-47
- John 13:33, 34
- John 17:22-23.

It is a powerful witness.

- Consider the number of believers who have come to Christ through it.
- Consider the number of believers who stay involved.

It is a limited witness.

- Consider the numbers of unbelievers who see or experience the body's witness.
- Consider its dependence on the other two modes of witness.

Expand the body witness through:

- *Increasing the visibility or accessibility of the body to the unbeliever.*
- *Adapting the culture of the body to welcome the unbeliever.*

Witness Through Natural Relationships

It is biblically important.

- John 1:40-51
- John 4:28-42
- Luke 8:38-39
- Colossians 4:5,6

It is historically significant.

It has significant potential.

It is the key for insiders.

Expand the natural witness through:

- *Increasing believers' awareness of their relational networks.*
- *Encouraging believers' to make the most of their natural opportunities with others.*

Witness Through Ministry Relationships

It is biblically important.

- Mark 1:38-39
- Luke 9:1-12
- Luke 10:1-17
- Acts 8
- Acts 11:22-24
- Acts 13 and on

It is strategically significant.

It is socially and culturally challenging.

It is the key for outsiders.

Expand the ministry witness through:

- *Penetrating new micro-cultures and people groups.*
- *Multiplying exposures within each people group.*

Conclusion

The maximum impact often occurs when all three modes of witness are working together, multiplying the impact of each individual mode.

Discussion

Are all three relational modes necessary to saturate a micro-culture or people group with the gospel? Why?

Are all three necessary to saturate with the gospel a large area involving multiple cultures and people groups (like a campus or city)? Why?

Strategic Application

Develop a comprehensive evangelism plan for your ministry that reflects all three relational modes of evangelism. It should answer the question, “How will we fully expand the impact of each relational mode?”

Evangelism Model -- Messengers Component

Keith Davy

The Messengers in Evangelism

Personal Reflection

When did you begin to share your faith?

How did you learn to share your faith?

Who has been most influential in how you share your faith? Why?

What has been most effective for you in helping others learn to share their faith?

Discussion

What is the percentage of believers involved in your ministry who are involved in fruitful witness? Why?

Biblical Principles

Consider three different biblical messengers.

The Samaritan Woman – John 4:28-30; 39-42.

The 72 Disciples – Luke 10:1-20

The Apostles – Acts 5:41-42

Compare: What is similar between the three?

Contrast: What is unique about each?

The Spectrum of Witnesses

A comprehensive evangelism movement will involve believers as:

Lifestyle witnesses – who are often involved in evangelism as a way of life.

Consider the power of the spontaneous witness of a believer through their life story.

How do you create a Christian body culture rich in spontaneous witness?

Lifestyle witnesses need encouragement.

Laborers – who are often involved in evangelism through special outreaches.

Laborers need to be equipped.

Utilize limited, specific outreaches to engage and equip believers in evangelism.

Leaders – who take responsibility for the on-going ministry of evangelism among a people group or area.

Leaders need to be entrusted with responsibility of reaching people groups.

Leaders can be entrusted with resources for fulfilling their mission.

Discussion

What has our traditional evangelism training been effective at accomplishing? Why?

What has our traditional evangelism training not been effective at accomplishing? Why?

Personal Reflection

Analyze your believers involved in your ministry.

Of the three levels on the spectrum of witnesses, which appears to be the strongest? Why?

Which of the three levels on the spectrum of witness appears to be the weakest? Why?

Application

What strategic steps can you take to increase the level of involvement of believers in fruitful witness?

Evangelism Model -- Master Component

Keith Davy

God-Centered Evangelism

Personal Reflection

What symptoms begin to occur in our lives and witness when our evangelism fails to be God-centered?

What has been most helpful for you in keeping God at the center of your evangelism?

Biblical Principles

Our evangelism must be built upon:

The Purpose of God

The Glory of God – John 17:1-26

Evangelism brings God glory through:

- Revealing the nature of God
- Rescuing the lost
- Restoring the image of God
- Resulting in the worship of God

The Passion of God

The Compassion of God – Matthew 9:35-38

The Compassion Cycle

- Involvement reveals need
- Need stirs compassion
- Compassion produces action

The Plan of God

The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20

As we do evangelism, we have:

- The authority of God behind us
- The plan of God before us
- The presence of God with us

The Message and Means of Evangelism

Personal Reflection

Mentally open your toolbox of evangelism resources. List what it contains.

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Discussion

What has been the one or two most effective evangelism resources or tools? Why?

In what context have those tools have been effective? Why?

Evangelism

A Biblical Framework

Biblical Principles

The Gospel Message

Understanding the essence of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Luke 24:45-48

- Who is Jesus?
- What has he done?
- Why did he do it?
- How do we know?
- How are we to respond?

Understanding the fullness of the gospel.

The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

The Old Testament (Luke 24:44)

The New Testament (for example, Romans)

Evangelism

A Biblical Framework

The Communication Means

Biblical Means of Communication

Theologically framed presentations (Acts 2:14-39; Romans)

Life story or testimonial presentations (John 4:28-30,39,42; Acts 26)

Historical narratives (The Gospels; Acts 7; Acts 13:16-41)

Philosophical presentations (Acts 17:22-31)

Non-historical stories (The parables, Mark 4:33,34; Luke 18:9-14)

Guided conversations (John 3:1-21; John 4:7-26)

Contemporary Means of Communications

Communicating the essence of the gospel (especially for the relatively near).

Communicating the fullness of the gospel (especially for the relatively distant).

Evangelism

A Biblical Framework

Discussion

Complete the sentence.

Our staff would love to have in their toolboxes an evangelism resource that would...

Our students would love to have in their evangelism toolboxes an evangelism resource that would...

Experiment

Begin a file of gospel presentations. Build your collection over time. See how many different forms or genres you discover. Pay attention to who developed each and what audience they appear to target.